

Spotlight – July 2009

Environment / Climate Change

What If?: Future Seas Scenario Planning and the Establishment of a Marine Reserve Network. *World Wildlife Fund*. June 2009.

The report is based on two scenarios developed by a representative group of fishers, scientists, energy experts, community leaders, eco-tour operators, environmentalists, and Māori and government representatives. It examines the long-term future of New Zealand's marine environment, which faces tremendous outside pressure on its resources, and pollution of marine habitats. Researchers conclude that New Zealand must take major steps to protect the country's marine resources from the effects of climate change, steps that also could be replicated in other countries. [ARTICLE 514](#)

Climate Change and the Global Water Crisis: What Businesses Need to Know and Do. *Pacific Institute and United Nations Global Impact*. May 2009.

The report explores the linkages between climate change and water, from both the scientific and corporate perspectives. It covers a number of critical areas, including how climate change is expected to impact water scarcity, water quality, and water demand; the ways in which water and energy are interconnected, including trade-off scenarios; and how businesses can manage water-climate risks. [ARTICLE 515](#)

Rising Temperatures, Rising Tensions: Climate Change and the Risk of Violent Conflict in the Middle East by Oli Brown and Alec Crawford. *Intn'l Inst. for Sustainable Development*. May 2009.

Climate models are predicting a hotter, drier and less predictable climate in the Middle East—a region already considered the world's most water-scarce. For Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory, climate change threatens to reduce the availability of water resources, increase food insecurity, hinder economic growth and lead to large-scale population movements. [ARTICLE 516](#)

Taking Stock: 2005 North American Pollutant Releases and Transfers. *Commission for Environmental Cooperation*. June 2009.

Ninety percent of the 5.5 billion kilograms of toxic pollutant releases and transfers reported in North America in 2005 can be traced to about 30 substances from 15 industrial sectors across the United States, Canada and Mexico. The report represents the most complete picture of pollution reporting from North American industrial facilities ever assembled. [ARTICLE 517](#)

Think Again: The Green Economy by Matthew E. Kahn. *Foreign Policy*. May/June 2009.

Going green has finally gone mainstream, and politicians from London to Seoul are spending billions on clean technologies they say will create jobs. But unless we are all willing to risk a little more pain, the green revolution could founder before it ever really starts. [ARTICLE 518](#)

In Search of Effective and Viable Policies to Reduce Greenhouse Gases by *Nicholas Burger et al.* *Environment*. May/June 2009.

Since taking office in January 2009, President Obama and his administration have outlined a dynamic plan to reduce GHG emissions as part of a more comprehensive long-term strategy including limits on petroleum imports and economic stimulus through green investment. In its 2010 budget proposal, the Obama administration sketched out its approach to an economy-wide cap-and-trade system. [ARTICLE 519](#)

Energy

International Energy Outlook 2009. *Energy Information Administration*. May 2009.

World marketed energy consumption is projected to grow by 44% between 2006 and 2030, driven by strong long-term economic growth in the developing nations of the world, according to the reference case projection. The current global economic downturn will dampen world energy demand in the near term, as manufacturing and consumer demand for goods and services slows. [ARTICLE 520](#)

President Obama Announces Over \$467 Million in Recovery Act Funding for Geothermal and Solar Energy Projects. *U.S. Department of Energy.* May 27, 2009.

"We have a choice. We can remain the world's leading importer of oil, or we can become the world's leading exporter of clean energy," said President Obama. "We can hand over the jobs of the future to our competitors, or we can confront what they have already recognized as the great opportunity of our time: the nation that leads the world in creating new sources of clean energy will be the nation that leads the 21st century global economy. That's the nation I want America to be." [ARTICLE 521](#)

OPEC Oil Export Revenues. *Energy Information Administration.* June 2009.

Based on projections from the EIA June 2009 Short-Term Energy Outlook (STEO), members of OPEC could earn \$530 billion of net oil export revenues in 2009 and \$620 billion in 2010. Last year, OPEC earned \$968 billion in net oil export revenues, a 42% increase from 2007. [ARTICLE 522](#)

The Clean Energy Economy: Repowering Jobs, Businesses and Investments Across America. *Pew Charitable Trusts.* June 2009.

The number of jobs in America's emerging clean energy economy grew nearly 2.5 times faster than overall jobs between 1998 and 2007, according to the report. Pew found that jobs in the clean energy economy grew at a national rate of 9.1%, while traditional jobs grew by only 3.7% between 1998 and 2007. [ARTICLE 523](#)

Cost Estimate for the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009. *Congressional Budget Office.* June 5, 2009.

Congressional Budget Office and the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) estimate that over the 2010-2019 period enacting this legislation would increase federal revenues by about \$846 billion and increase direct spending by about \$821 billion. In total, those changes would reduce budget deficits (or increase future surpluses) by about \$24 billion over the 2010-2019 period. [ARTICLE 524](#)

Obama Administration Takes Unprecedented Steps to Reduce Impacts of Mountaintop Coal Mining, Announces Interagency Action Plan to Implement Reforms. *Executive Office of the President, Council on Environmental Quality.* June 11, 2009.

Obama Administration announced that they are taking unprecedented steps to reduce the environmental impacts of mountaintop coal mining in the six Appalachian states of Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia through a coordinated approach between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of the Interior (DOI) and Army Corps of Engineers. [ARTICLE 525](#)